

## CONFEREES ON DISTRICT BILL CANNOT AGREE

At Odds Over Five Items, Including Raise in Pay for D. C. Employees.

### INTANGIBLE TAX AN ISSUE

Municipal Hospital, Surplus Revenue, and Kingle Ford Provisions Not Accepted.

Senate and House conferees on the District appropriation bill, at a meeting this morning and another this afternoon, decided to report a disagreement on the following five items:

The proposed increase of pay to District employees.  
The Sterling amendment to the intangible tax law.  
The Gallinger municipal hospital.  
The Senate provision that any surplus of the revenues shall go to the sinking fund of the District.  
The Senate provision for purchase of the Kingle Ford Valley tract.

The conferees will prepare a formal report to the Senate and House and sign it this afternoon. It will show an agreement except as to these items.

### Auto Tax Undetermined.

The automobile tax provision had not been disposed of by the conferees up to the time of the meeting this afternoon.

The conferees have allowed liberal increases for the schools and street improvements.

Ninety additional police, instead of 100, as in the Senate bill, are allowed.

A compromise was made on the provision for matrons in the schools, and matrons are allowed the high schools.

The disagreement is as to the amount of increase in pay for the District employees simply means that the conferees are awaiting action on the legislative bill. What is done in that bill will be taken as the standard, though there is strong sentiment among the Senate conferees to accept the House rate of increase as made in the legislative bill.

### Intangible Tax Dispute.

As to the Sterling amendment to the intangible tax law, the conferees are divided in opinion about the taxing of bank deposits. Much sentiment exists against taxing them. It has been pointed out that to tax them simply has a tendency, not to benefit Washington, but to drive deposits out of Washington. Senator John Walter Smith of Maryland, despite the fact it would benefit Baltimore and other Maryland cities to have bank deposits here taxed, is against taxing them.

Detailed figures on the totals of the bill as agreed to by the conferees are not available. The total, however, is largely increased over that of the House bill.

### ASKS VIENNA ATTITUDE

Ambassador Penfield Wants To Ascertain Stand of Austria.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 20.—American Ambassador Penfield, at Vienna, has asked the Austro-Hungarian foreign office what attitude that government is taking on the submarine warfare, dispatches from there declared today.

His message did not say specifically whether Austria had withdrawn its assurances in the Anconia and Persia submarines.

### TAFT CAN RIDE, BUT—

Ex-President, Now Reservist, Says "Would Be Hard on Horse."

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 20.—A former President of the United States has been enrolled in the Connecticut military reserve, the first New Haven man to be visited by a census agent. The facts about the distinguished reservist are these:

His name is William Howard Taft.

He is a professor of law, in his fifty-ninth year.

He says that he can ride a horse, adding: "But it would be hard on the horse."

He says that he cannot handle a team or drive an automobile. He is a fairly good swimmer, he says, and, being a lawyer, he has no other occupation.

He cannot sail a boat, operate a wireless or understand telegraphy.

He weighs 265 pounds and is 5 feet 10 1/2 inches in height.

### MANY GERMANS TAKEN

Paris Announces Successful Raid North of France.

PARIS, Feb. 20.—"Many prisoners" were captured in a surprise raid north of France and west of Waterville, the French war office statement declared today.

In the Oise and Aisne regions there was considerable artillery firing, but elsewhere it was calm.

### OVERCOME IN HOTEL FIRE

Guests Carried Through Smoke To Safety by Firemen.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 20.—More than forty persons had narrow escapes when the Hartford Hotel caught fire here early today.

Starting in the basement, flames swept to upper floors quickly. Guests were aroused by firemen. Several were overcome by smoke and carried down fire escapes. All are believed saved.

## GERMANS URGED TO SACRIFICE GEMS

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 20.—The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, of Berlin, prints prominently an appeal by the president of the German Imperial Bank for all German men and women to sell their gold valuables to the Imperial Bank and dispose of all jewels held by them in neutral countries through a diamond agency.

The appeal says the sacrifice of gold and jewels which the bank demands forms a part of the necessary supply work, but that all classes do not fully recognize the necessity of this further sacrifice.

The president in his appeal adds that he does not need to demand the sacrifice of gold ornaments of especial historical, artistic or ethical interest, but he does require all gold ornaments outside this category.

## PERSHING REPLACES FUNSTON ON BORDER

Permanent Successor Has Not Yet Been Decided Upon by the War Department.

The War Department was in mourning today for Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, whose sudden death at San Antonio last night closed the career of an officer with one of the most notable service records in the annals of the United States Army.

Under War Department regulations Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing assumed command of the Southern Department until an appointment is made. Although General Pershing stands at the foot of the list of major generals it was indicated today he will be given permanent command of the department, since, next to Funston, Pershing has been most active in carrying on the Mexican and border campaign.

### Will Not Be Buried Here.

It was announced today that General Funston will not be brought to Washington for burial in Arlington Cemetery.

The War Department was advised that General Funston's body will be taken to San Francisco for burial in the national cemetery at the Presidio.

Mrs. Funston and her three children now are at San Francisco.

No officers from Washington will attend the funeral. Maj. Gen. Franklin Bell, commanding the Western Department, will represent the War Department at the funeral.

Secretary of War Baker, to whom the death of General Funston was a personal shock, said today that no consideration whatever will be given for the present to the appointment of a successor.

### Vacancy in Grade.

Not only will it be necessary to designate a new commanding general for the Southern department, in which practically all the mobile troops of the United States now are quartered, but there will be a vacancy in the list of major generals.

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### SENATE GETS ISLAND BILL

House Passes Appropriation for West Indies Purchase.

The Administration bill appropriating \$25,000,000 for the purchase of the Danish West Indies went to the Senate from the House today. It was approved by a practically unanimous vote in the lower body last night.

The bill was passed under a suspension of the rules after brief debate and without roll call.

The Danish West Indies measure was considered a nonpartisan measure. Minority Leader Mann, for instance, recommended prompt passage, while Congressman Mondell of Wyoming, another staunch Republican, declared the United States "is engaged in real estate speculation in the West Indies, and paying a high price for it."

"We ought to dominate the West Indies," said Mr. Mann, who, by inference, held the bill was not without value as a preparedness measure.

The bill as reported by Chairman Flood, of the Foreign Affairs Committee, provides that so far as compatible with the changed sovereignty all taxes and customs duties now levied in the Danish West Indies shall remain in effect until Congress shall have opportunity to enact legislation.

It is provided, however, that an export duty of 8 per cent on sugar shall be charged.

### WINS SUCCESS WHEN 82

Aged Composer Sells Book to J. P. Morgan for Fortune.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—John Towers, at eighty-two, a veteran singing master and composer, has suddenly gone through the metamorphosis from a poor struggling musician, fully resigned to spend his last days in the Theodore Pressor Home for Retired Musicians, to a master both prominent and independent.

Towers is said to have spent more than 7,000 hours preparing the book, which is considered the most complete of its kind ever published.

## DRY HEARINGS COME TO CLOSE IN COMMITTEE

"Wets" Expected to Ask Extension of at Least One Day.

### WITNESSES STILL UNHEARD

Lively Discussion Marks District Committee's Session on Sheppard Measure.

Unless the committee votes tomorrow to secure its prior order, there will be no further hearings on the Sheppard prohibition bill before the House District Committee.

When the committee adjourned today after a lively hearing, it was to meet tomorrow morning to take up the bill in executive session.

However, both the "wet" and "dry" sides had witnesses present today who were not heard, and it is likely that the "wets" will urge an extension of the hearing for at least one day. Chairman Johnson said the hearing had closed unless the committee wants to vote differently tomorrow.

Adjournment today interrupted the argument of William McK. Clayton, representing the Board of Trade and the Federation of Citizens' Associations for a referendum.

### Dry Ready to Close.

A. E. Shoemaker, attorney for the Anti-Saloon League, informed the committee that the dry side was ready to present its closing argument in accordance with the previous understanding that the dry would have the closing hour.

However, the committee decided to go ahead with an out-of-town "wet" worker and the "drys" were sidetracked.

Subsequently there were several skirmishes over procedure, and an effort was made to hold an afternoon session, but the committee voted to adjourn till tomorrow, leaving a number of witnesses yet unheard.

### Has Other Witnesses.

Charles J. Columbus said he had several more witnesses for the referendum side, but Congressman Cary said the wet interests had not consented their argument. After the hearing Mr. Shoemaker said the dry would not ask for more time tomorrow, although they felt they were entitled to the day.

C. P. Garrett, representing the Federation of Citizens' Associations, told the committee that the federation favored the prohibition bill but wanted a referendum on it. The federation, he said, stood for a referendum on all questions of local concern.

Mr. Clayton asked the committee not to assume that all those who attended a referendum were allied with the liquor interests and all those who opposed it were prohibitionists. Many prohibitionists, he said, wanted the referendum as was shown by the votes in the citizens' associations.

### Compared With Porto Rico.

"We have been asking for a referendum in the District on various matters for twenty years. If Congress will give the Porto Ricans and the dark-skinned natives of the tropics a vote on prohibition, why should it be denied the National Capital, whose people live closer to the flag, and in a city where the Declaration of Independence was preserved? Why should we alone be classed with the ignorant and those who wear stripes on our penitentiaries and have no vote?"

James Mullowney, of Philadelphia, representing the glass blowers' union, argued an argument in favor of a referendum and in behalf of the workers who would be affected by legislation making the District dry.

Joseph Probst, international secretary of the United Brewery Workers of America, was the live-wire witness of the hearing today. He talked with much feeling, a decided German accent, and declamatory emphasis. Sumptuary legislation imposing prohibition upon the District, he said, would deprive approximately 2,000 men of work. The prohibition movement, he declared, was largely a sentimental one.

### Sparks for Brewery Workers.

"There are \$9,000,000 invested in the brewery and liquor business in this city," he said. "I am not worrying so much about that. These investors probably have enough to live on. I speak for the brewery workers and others who have worked at their trade all their lives and have little homes paid for or half paid for who would be thrown out of employment."

"This prohibition bill means there will soon be 2,000 bootleggers here, as there are in Denver. I was in Denver last June and saw eighteen carloads of liquor on the sidetracks waiting for

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## OFFICIALS DENY GERMAN CRISIS HAS ABATED

State Department Authorities See No Basis for Talk of Improved Situation.

### PERIL STILL IN ZONE EDICT

Real Issue Befogged by Conflicting Opinions in Administration Quarters.

"Conflicting expressions in Administration quarters regarding the present status of the German-American situation have served seriously to befog the real issue."

This is the opinion of men in high office in Washington who see grave danger in the frequent statements which have emanated during the last twenty-four hours from sources claiming to represent the views of the Administration that "the situation is much improved."

Officials of the State Department are unable to see where there can be any improvement so long as the threat of Germany to sink all American merchant ships and all ships carrying Americans passing through the German war zone, hangs suspended in mid-air.

### Small Comfort for Future.

With American ships, with few exceptions, frightened off the high seas, and with only a few Americans daring to take passage on other vessels clearing for the barred area, the State Department finds small comfort for the future in the fact that American lives are not being lost.

Germany issued her war zone decree, it was pointed out at the State Department today, primarily to break up neutral trade with Great Britain. To the extent that she has frightened American commerce off the seas, it was observed, Germany has partially accomplished her purpose.

The only incidents that have occurred of American ships being sunk, it was pointed out in these quarters, have tended to prove that Germany's present attitude is in ruthless disregard of past promises.

### "Scraps of Paper" Again.

While there was evidence that warning was given before the American ships Houstonian and Lyman M. Law were sunk, the State Department has not overlooked the fact that in both these incidents Germany dismissed as "a scrap of paper," the understanding reached more than a year ago in the negotiations attending the case of the William P. Frye.

The William P. Frye, an American schooner, was sunk by a German commerce raider, the Prinz Eitel Friedrich—now interned at Philadelphia—while carrying a cargo of wheat from Seattle to Liverpool. Wheat is conditional contraband because it is food.

In the negotiations which followed the United States agreed to let the case go to arbitration provided Germany agreed in the meantime, and pending a settlement, not to sink any American ships, even though they carried conditional contraband.

### Some Uncertainty.

There is some uncertainty as to the status of the trade in which the Houstonian was engaged. The Lyman M. Law was carrying wooden lathing for lemon boxes, never before regarded as contraband.

In other words, the State Department feels that the American people should not permit themselves to lose sight of the fact that no German war zone decree, repudiating all past promises and pledges to the United States, is still in full force and effect, and may at any time result in the commission of an "overt act" sufficient to justify a declaration of war.

### Views Confict.

Unfortunately, from the State Department viewpoint, not all who are claiming to speak for the Administration are seeing things the same way. On the contrary, in these latter quarters emphasis is laid on the fact that no American ships have yet been sunk without warning, and that no Americans have lost their lives as yet on other ships sunk without warning, as justification for the statement that "the situation is much improved."

To put it mildly, there is a difference of opinion.

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## THROGS OF WOMEN STORM CITY HALL IN NEW YORK FOOD RIOT

"We Want Bread" Is Cry As Mob Sweeps Up to Mayor's Office; Trouble Threatened When Leader Is Arrested.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Crying "We want bread, we want bread," more than 300 women, bareheaded, scantily clad—their warmest garments being shawls thrown about their shoulders—stormed up the steps of the city hall here today, demanding relief from Mayor Mitchel for the high cost of food.

Some declared their families were starving.

Most of the women carried babies, their faces showing the pinch of hunger in their arms.

The women were headed by Mrs. Ida Harris, president of the Mother's Vigilance League, and Marie Ganz, known as "Sweet Marie." They came from the tenement district, where push cart peddlers have been steadily raising prices until the women declared they are now utterly unable to feed their families.

### "WANT BREAD," THEIR CRY.

"We are starving; we want bread," was the constant cry raised by the women as they surged about the entrance to city hall.

At noon a delegation of women had gathered in front of police headquarters demanding to see Police Commissioner Woods.

At the same time the police received word that 2,000 additional women were forming in Rutgers Square to march to city hall.

Walking quietly across City Hall Park the women were at the very steps of the building before they were noticed. They swept up the steps en masse. The doors were banged shut in their faces, and wild cries and imprecations followed.

### Reserves Called Out.

A swarm of police reserves and plain clothesmen appeared. They drove the women down from the steps. Marie Ganz then mounted the steps and addressed the women.

She urged the women to remain in the building until they were fed.

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## PAY RAISE SEEKERS LOSE A. F. OF L. JOBS

Eleven Men and Women Who Demanded Minimum Wage Standard Are Out.

Eleven men and women employed in the office of the American Federation of Labor have been either laid off or dismissed.

All of them are members of the Stenographers, Typewriters, and Bookkeepers and Assistants' Union, No. 11,773, and all joined in the recent demand for a \$3-a-day minimum wage scale.

Frank Morrison, secretary of the federation, said the employees had not been discharged, but the office force had been reduced because the extra work the men and women were employed to do had been completed. He added that the employees were informed that if the work became heavy again and justified their being re-employed, they would be hired.

Members of the union, however, declared the laying off of the employees at this particular time is significant, and that they cannot convince themselves the discontinuance of their services, even temporarily, is not intimately related to the demands for more money.

It is understood that at a special meeting of the union in Pythian Temple tomorrow night the dismissal or laying off of employees will be considered. Members of the organization said they had received verbal notice that the subject was to be discussed and the course of action of the union determined.

### NAVY CENSORSHIP RIGID

Clerk Laid Off for Appearing Without His Building Pass.

Civilian employees of the Navy Department were given warning today that the navy censorship, the tightest since Spanish war days, has teeth in it. When a clerk of one of the bureaus was given a thirty-day lay off for appearing at the building without his pass.

At the same time word was given out that at the navy yard any employee appearing without his pass would be given three days' leave to find it, failing in which he would be discharged. These precautions were taken to prevent passes to the Navy Department from falling into the hands of foreign spies.

Although the censorship applies to the State and War Departments, as well as to the Navy, it is the latter which is most severely guarded.

A watchman was stationed last night to patrol the ten feet of corridor separating the office of naval communications, from which all ship movements are directed by wireless, and the office of naval operations.

No loitering was permitted in the hall. Even Lieutenant McCandless, Secretary Daniels' aide, was ordered to "move on" as he stopped in the corridor.

### DEWEY ESTATE \$255,000

Naval Hero's Will Filed By Widow and Son.

Admiral George Dewey, hero of Manila Bay, left an estate valued at \$255,000, according to a petition filed for probate in the District Supreme court today by his widow and son, Mrs. Mildred McLean Dewey and George Goodwin Dewey.

The son renounces a claim to the executorship, and moved that the widow be appointed administratrix. The petition sets forth that the admiral left no real property.

## LANSING PLEADS WITH SENATORS FOR 'SPY' BILLS

Goes Before Judiciary Committee in Appeal for Measures Not Passed.

### OFFICIAL THERE WITH HIM

Assistant Attorney General Warren Joins in Request for Action at Once.

Failure on the part of the Senate to pass four of the eighteen neutrality bills proposed by the Department of Justice, caused Secretary of State Lansing and Assistant Attorney General Warren to appear today before the Senate Judiciary Committee in an earnest appeal for action on the measures.

The most important of the bills which failed to get through, is one giving the President authority to use the land and naval forces of the United States to "enforce any or all other obligations imposed upon the United States by law of nations, by treaties or conventions to which the United States is a party, or by the statutes of the United States."

Chairman Overman of the Judiciary Committee subsequently characterized the bill as "utterly unbecoming for a wild report which went out of Washington to the effect that the passage of this bill would give the President all the authority he needs to handle the German submarine issue without recourse to war."

### Only Slight Relation.

"The bill has no such purpose," explained Senator Overman. "It has not the slightest relation to the submarine issue or to the question of providing convoys or other protection to American ships passing through the war zone."

"It aims merely to give the President power to use the military and naval forces to prevent violations of the neutrality obligations imposed on the United States, such, for example, as the obligation to prevent interned German ships from escaping, or to prevent expeditions being organized in this country to provision belligerent ships at sea."

### Spy Bill Passed.

Despite the strenuous opposition led by Senator Cummins, the Senate today passed the so-called "spy" bill, covering fourteen of the eighteen measures sought by the Administration, on a roll call. The vote was 60 to 10.

The opponents of the bill were Senators Borah, Cummins, Gronna, Kenyon, La Follette, Norris, and Works, Republicans, and Lane, Lee of Maryland, and McLean, Democrats.

The bill, as passed, includes no less than fourteen bills as originally framed in the Department of Justice. Drastic and sweeping provisions against espionage and breaches of neutrality and against dissemination of information useful to an enemy country are contained in the measure.

### Apply in Time of Peace.

The provisions against espionage apply in time of peace and war.

Under them, any one spying on any part of the national defense is liable to heavy fine and long imprisonment.

Provisions are in the bill which in war time would enable the Government to suppress newspapers and jail newspapermen if they published any information the Government deemed hurtful to it from a military or naval standpoint.

Sensor Cummins, Senator Works, Senator Lee and others take the position the bill is dangerous and clothes the Government with powers dangerous to the civil liberty of the people; dangerous to free speech and to a free press.

### See Abnormal Conditions.

They take the position the measure is being rushed through in the midst of war excitement, when it would be impossible under normal conditions to secure it.

Pacifists throughout the country are stirred up.

The bill, it is expected, will pass the House inasmuch as the Administration is pressing it, and it will be possible to get a rule for its consideration. It was all but passed by the Senate last night, but when a final roll call was sought there was no quorum.

### Convenes at 11.

Adjournment was then taken until this morning, supposedly to 10:30. A smattering of Senators met then, but on a point raised by Senator Brandegee it was held by the Chair the Senate could not adjourn to 10:30 without a quorum and so it convened at 11.

Adding to the complications over the bill is the fact the American Union Against Militarism has come out against the measure.

The charge is made by this organization that the bill is so loosely drawn as to be aimed directly at the pacifist movement, in language if not in intent.

### Special Meeting.

A special meeting has been called by the American Union Against Militarism in New York today to consider the situation.

Representatives of the union have consulted Senators Lee, Cummins, Works, and La Follette to secure amendments to the bill safeguarding free speech and the free press.

The clause to which the pacifists object is the following:

"Whoever, in time of war, shall, by any means or in any manner, spread

## All the News in The Times

Despite the high cost of print paper, The Times is publishing more news than any other paper in Washington.

The score for the six weeks of last week was:

The Times... 365 cols.  
Next paper... 349 cols.